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5750 ALMADEN EXPWY
SAN JOSE, CA 95118-3686
TELEPHONE (408) 265-2600
FACSIMILE (408) 266-0271
www.valleywater.org
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GREGORY A. ZLOTNICK
DIRECTOR, DISTRICT 5

July 21, 2003

Honorable Ken Calvert, Chair
Subcommittee on Water and Power
U.S. House of Representatives
2201 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: June 28 Hearing on CALFED Bay-Delta Program and Ways to Improve Water
Supply, Reliability, Availability, and Quality

Dear Representative Calvert:

Thank you for inviting me to testify on behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) at the June 28 hearing on the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED Program) and ways to improve water supply in California. The District is the primary water resource agency for Santa Clara County. Our duties include providing wholesale water supplies to 13 local retail water agencies; protecting county residents and businesses from floods; and serving as environmental steward for the county's creeks and streams, underground aquifers, and District-built reservoirs.

The region my agency serves, the Silicon Valley, relies on the Bay-Delta for about half of its water supplies. In very dry years, Bay-Delta supplies can account for up to 90 percent of the water used in the county. Given this, you can understand why our region has such a huge stake in the success of the CALFED Program. I know I speak for my fellow Board members as well when I say we very much appreciate your efforts to give visibility to the CALFED Program and secure funding for its balanced implementation.

I hope that my testimony about how our agency has successfully worked with multiple federal agencies in the permitting process will be helpful to you in developing legislation that addresses the CALFED Program and other western water issues. We are anxious to see that effort move forward, and stand ready to work with you and your staff to help ensure the effort is successful.

Sincerely,

GREG

Gregory A. Zlotnick
Director, District 5

cc: District Office
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